

gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), the distinguished and decorated top gun in the House; it is a pleasure to be his wing man.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Ecke, Jr., was not a Congressman, he was not a Senator, but most of the Members in this House, and the other body as well, have benefited not only from Paul Ecke, Jr., but his entire family.

I rise in tribute to Paul Ecke, Jr., who passed away at the age of 76. I do so for my San Diego colleagues who are on a plane unable to make it here tonight, and also former member Ron Packard.

I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of my friend, Paul Ecke, Jr., and also my constituent. Paul was a devoted husband and father, a leader in the San Diego community, and a force in the poinsettia industry. While his leadership and the business made him an international figure, it was his warm heart and caring personality that made him a community leader and friend. The entire Ecke family has dedicated themselves to children, education, and the betterment of San Diegoans.

Since I came to Congress, Paul and I have worked together on issues important to our community of San Diego and to the flower industry worldwide. Paul's boundless leadership and generosity was evident in his support of local charities. The Magdalena Ecke YMCA, which was named after his mother; the San Diego Museum of Natural History, which he dedicated personal time in the overseeing of; the California State University at San Marcos, and the Del Mar Fair Grounds. In addition, Paul's industry has given America the world's poinsettia for holidays. Eighty percent of the world's poinsettias are licensed to the Ecke ranch, not a small accomplishment.

I will never forget the first time I met Paul. He came to meet me in my home when I was a candidate for United States Congress. He walked in my living room, he picked up a basket of silk flowers from my coffee table and immediately threw them in the garbage. He told me that he would replace it with something better, and later that day, he sent me an arrangement of real flowers. Paul was a man who noticed every detail and never hesitated to tell you what he was thinking, and who always followed through with his promises.

Paul's life exemplified commitment and service to his community, and he leaves behind a legacy for his family, his friends, and fellow Americans to follow.

Together with poinsettias, Paul Ecke leaves a legacy of philanthropy. His generosity extended not only just to the YMCA, but his father had the Paul Ecke Elementary School named after him, so we can see the entire family has been involved in education.

Paul Ecke, Sr., who died in 1991, developed the first poinsettia cultivar from a wildflower native to Mexico so that it could be successfully grown in an indoor potted plant. Over the years, the family marketed the plant so it could become synonymous with the Christmas holidays. Today, the family employs 300 people in Encinitas and 1,000 in Mexico.

As a member of the YMCA Board of Directors for many years, Ecke, Jr.'s signature fund raiser was a holiday poinsettia ball and annual benefit that would raise \$75,000 minimum a year for scholarships for children of low-income families to use at the YMCA. From 1992 to 2000, Ecke, Jr. was a member of the Del Mar Board. During his tenure, the fair flower show expanded to a nationally recognized event. Paul Ecke, Jr.'s son, Paul Ecke, III, now runs the business and told me the motto of the Ecke family house was "We never give up." Paul Ecke, III said that he showed us by example that you do not lie, you do not cheat, and you do not steal, and that you are fair.

Paul Ecke, Jr., joined the Navy and served in the Pacific aboard USS *Knapp*. He was called back to duty in 1951 to serve as an ensign aboard the USS *Perkins* in the China Sea during the Korean War. Even then, his green thumb was irrepressible. Paul Ecke, Jr. told me a story about his father, that the guns had shook the ship so much that the Captain's flowerpots had jiggled all the dirt out. Paul Ecke, Jr. got the captain to go to the North Korean shore and gather more earth so that the flowers could grow on the USS *Perkins*. He was a horticulturist.

Paul Ecke, Jr. earned a degree in horticulture from Ohio State University in 1949. From there, Ecke, Jr. pioneered the use of greenhouses to grow his flowers. He was responsible for the construction of the Floral Trade Center in Carlsbad. If any of the Members have ever attended the flower gathering once a year held over in the Cannon Building, it was Paul Ecke, Jr. who organized the entire event and gave flowers out to every Member of Congress and lady that wanted them, and most of the men as well, for their ladies.

Yes, Paul was a giant man. He was not a Congressman. He was not a Senator. We will miss him.

Mr. Ecke is survived by his wife, Maureen; daughter, Sara Ecke May of Greensboro, North Carolina; daughter Lizbeth Ecke; son of Paul Ecke, III, and 7 grandchildren. May God bless Paul Ecke, Jr.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In addition to the other fine things that have been said about Paul Ecke, Jr., he also led the horticulture industry's successful effort to include for the first time significant research funding for floral and nursery crops in the research budget of the United States Department of Agriculture. We extend our condolences to the Ecke family and

to the floral industry on the death of Paul Ecke, Jr., who was a philanthropist, an advocate for education, and a warm and loving human being.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in their tribute to Paul Ecke, Jr. and the Ecke family for their contributions to the floral and horticulture industries in this country and particularly for their devotion to the cultivation and improvement of the poinsettia plant.

This is a case where the impact one family has had on an industry cannot go unmentioned, and the unfortunate passing of Paul Ecke, Jr., gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to him and to his father.

Their ingenuity and hard work have made poinsettias a holiday tradition and the largest selling potted plant in this country. It is also an amazing feat when one thinks that over 80 percent of all poinsettia plants grown in the world can trace their origin to the Ecke Ranch.

Paul Ecke, Jr., was a tireless worker on behalf of the entire floriculture industry and his efforts will truly be missed. I send my condolences to his family and to his industry.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 471.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE 10-MONTH-LONG WORLD TRADE CENTER CLEANUP AND RECOVERY EFFORTS AT THE FRESH KILLS LANDFILL ON STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 492) expressing gratitude for the 10-month-long World Trade Center cleanup and recovery efforts at the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, New York, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 492

Resolved, That the House of Representatives thanks and pays tribute to all those whose 10 months of efforts at Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, New York, to clean up the debris from the site of the World Trade Center, and to recover the remains and effects of the victims, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, helped to bring healing and closure to the victims' families and loved ones, to New York, and to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 492.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 492 is being introduced by our distinguished colleague from the State of New York (Mr. FOSSELLA). This resolution honors the more than 1,000 workers who worked day and night for 10 months at the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, sifting through over 1.5 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center site, searching for human remains and personal items.

Mr. Speaker, following the unthinkable horror of last September 11, a reality emerged that rivaled the gravity of the tragedy itself, that the debris from the site would have to be hauled away and painstakingly sifted for the remains of those killed in the tragedy. Tons of concrete, steel, and other material had to be carried away by the truckload, and dedicated men and women from New York City, State, and Federal agencies contracted to completing this seemingly endless and compassionate work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this measure that honors those wonderful Americans that performed this back-breaking labor for months on end. For this reason, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 492.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the debris from the cleanup of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers were taken to the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, New York for cleanup and investigation. Over a 10-month period following September 11, 2001, more than 1,000 workers at the landfill, around the clock, tirelessly and carefully sifted through all 1.62 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center site, searching for remains, personal effects, and evidence from what is now considered to be history's largest crime scene.

These workers came from 28 New York City, State, and Federal agencies to participate in these cleanup and recovery efforts. They recovered approximately 20 percent of all of the victim remains following the towers' collapse, as well as more than 54,000 personal items. The remains of 188 of the 1,215 World Trade Center victims whose remains have been identified and returned to their families were recovered at the landfill. The actions of these workers brought peace to the hundreds of friends and families that were

touched by this horrific attack against the United States.

This resolution pays tribute to the workers who helped clean up the debris of the World Trade Center site and recovered the remains and effects of the victims. I urge my colleagues' support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the sponsor of this measure.

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his words.

This was said last week at the closing ceremony of the Fresh Kills Landfill: "As grass grows green again on Fresh Kills, teach us that life, not death, has triumphed." That was the Reverend Jack Ryan who spent, it seemed like almost every day for the last 10 months, up at the landfill that has been mentioned by my colleagues, where more than 1,000 workers and volunteers really did the Lord's work, trying to help some families come to closure. As was mentioned, 54,000 personal items, such things as wedding rings or wallets, identifications, pictures, and the like were recovered and given to many of the families. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) mentioned that 188 of the victims were identified from the work at Fresh Kills.

Over the past 10 months, I visited the landfill many times and witnessed for myself the work which has taken a physical and an emotional toll on the men and women there. But they never stopped pushing themselves. They never stopped, because they knew what they were doing was making a positive difference in the lives of people who suffered greatly. They brought peace of mind and a sense of healing to many, and a grateful Nation offers its thanks to these tireless and dedicated workers.

Many of the workers sustained personal losses themselves on September 11 and were perhaps searching and working to find any remnant that would help bring their own loved one to rest. They were working in honor of their own family, friend, or coworkers; others simply worked for our country and to provide some element of closure to fellow Americans.

The sacrifice of all of these workers and their willingness to give of themselves to help others has shown that the best attributes of mankind may emerge, even as a result of the worst mankind can do. Through their efforts, people such as Police Investigator James Luongo, the coordinator of the recovery effort at Fresh Kills, FBI Special Agent Richard Marx, Firefighter John Tedesco, Port Authority Police Lieutenant Brian Tierney, Dominick

Bilotto of the New York City Sanitation Department, and hundreds like them gave families such as Bill and Camille Doyle some comfort by returning their 25 year-old son, Joseph's, driver's license and credit cards which were retrieved at Fresh Kills.

For now, it is all the Doyles have of their son, a driver's license and credit cards. But even for that, they are extremely thankful to those who worked at the landfill.

I think a clear demonstration of how much their work at Fresh Kills means to the people of Staten Island, New York City, the State, and the Nation is illustrated by the actions of a Staten Islander, Daya Madison of St. George who, on the day of the closing ceremony, stood at the foot of the road leading out of the landfill, holding up the same signs she has held up at the site for almost 10 months straight, wishing the workers well and thanking them.

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As a Nation, we must remember that while over 1,200 families, 1,200, have had the remains of their loved ones returned to them. There are over 1,600, 1,600 families who lost a loved one on that unimaginable day of September 11 at the Trade Center who have not recovered anything. These families do not have a grave site to visit, ashes to scatter or something of their loved one to lay to rest. Almost a year later these families are still hoping and praying every day that their loved one will be identified and returned to them.

We must also remember to keep these families in our hearts and prayers. For over 50 years the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island served as a dumping ground for New York City, now and forever more will serve as a hallowed ground; and we will always remember how the good in people was exhibited there.

It is often said that closure does not have an end and we do not necessarily move on, but move forward. These workers at Fresh Kills Field should forever remain proud in knowing that they helped many more than they will ever know to move forward. Again, as Father Ryan said, "As grass grows green again on Field Kills, teach us that life not death has triumphed."

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for bringing this measure to the House's attention. I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my friend from Staten Island in recognizing the heroes who worked outside the view of cameras over the last year.

The people who worked at Fresh Kills had a terrible task. More than 1,000 workers toiled at the landfill, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They sifted through all 1.62 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center site. They sifted through a national tragedy, looking for the remains of national heroes.

They searched for body parts, personal items, and evidence from what is history's

largest crime scene. These workers recovered approximately 20 percent of all the victim remains. 188 of the 1,215 World Trade Center victims whose remains have been identified and returned to their families were recovered at the landfill.

More than 54,000 personal items were recovered: wedding rings, photographs, driver licenses, keys; reminders of lives lived and tragically cut short.

These workers helped the victims' families by giving the families something to hold. These items could never replace the lost ones, but could help give some closure and peace. On July 15, 2002, the cleanup and recovery operations at Fresh Kills Landfill came to a somber conclusion.

We will however, be eternally grateful to the workers at Fresh Kills. We know it wasn't an easy job. But these workers lived up to the best ideals of service by helping so many families.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 492.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WILLIAM C. CRAMER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5145) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the "William C. Cramer Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 5145

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM C. CRAMER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "William C. Cramer Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the William C. Cramer Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5145, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5145, introduced by our colleague from the State of Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, designates a post office at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg as the William C. Cramer Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the great State of Florida are co-sponsors of this legislation.

In 1951, Republicans in the Florida legislature were still a rarity; but as Pinellas County sent up an entirely GOP delegation to the 1951 session, there were enough to justify electing a minority leader for the first time. They elected freshman William C. Cramer as the minority leader who, along with two other members of this Pinellas County delegation, made up the entire Republican conference.

It is worth noting under his leadership they soon doubled their numbers to six in the 1954 election.

Mr. Speaker, this post office will recognize former Congressman Bill Cramer for his 16 years of service to the people of Florida. Bill Cramer represented Floridians in the Republican Party of Congress as the ranking member on the House Committee on Public Works, the Subcommittee on Roads and the Committee on Federal Aid Highway Investigation. Prior to his elective service, he also served in the Navy reserves in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Cramer is a friend and mentor who served our Nation with great honor and distinction in this House. The enactment of this legislation will leave in St. Petersburg, the hometown he so dearly loved and served, a lasting tribute to his service, his patriotism, and his devotion to our Nation. I thank the distinguished chairman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), who is unfortunately unable to be with us today, for introducing this measure. I urge all Members to support the adoption of H.R. 5145.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 5145, a bill to designate a facility of the U.S. Postal Service after William C. Cramer.

H.R. 5145 was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) on July 16, 2002, and enjoys the support

and co-sponsorship of the entire Florida congressional delegation. William Cramer was born in Denver, Colorado, and at the age of 3 moved with his parents to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he attended public schools. After serving as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve and the State House of Representatives, William Cramer was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1955, and served until January 1971. He is currently retired and a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the greater Orlando, Florida area (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before you in support of this legislation that will name a Federal facility in honor of William C. Cramer, a former Member of this distinguished body.

I have had the opportunity over the past 3 decades to know, and the opportunity to work with, the opportunity to admire Bill Cramer as he is affectionately known. Congressman Cramer, as we have heard, was one of the leaders in Republican-elected service in the State of Florida at a time when all the Republicans in the State legislature could meet in one phone booth and still have plenty of room left over. He not only led the beginning of a two-party system in the Florida legislature when he was first elected to Congress, he was the first and only Republican elected since the Civil War, one lone Republican member of the delegation; and today we have 15 of 23 due to his great legacy of service.

I had the opportunity to work for Bill Cramer as a young man in his campaign for the United States Senate in 1970. Much of what I have learned in campaigns and much of what I learned about elected service comes from the model provided by Bill Cramer. Bill Cramer served in this House and also served as an inspiration for me to become involved in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He was one of the leading Republican members of its predecessor, the Committee on Public Works, and served with distinction.

Bill Cramer's service is an example of the legacy that we can leave here, not just in words, but also in changing the infrastructure and the opportunity and lives of so many people.

If you go through central Florida and look at the intrastate and the infrastructure projects from end to end, many of them show the handy work of this great leader who we are here to honor. Bill Cramer will be celebrating his 80th birthday, and it could not be more fitting to have any facility named for any individual I know of